undue assumption that from personal contact and large op-
portunities of observation, I have as much personal experi-
ence of the German-born population of the United States,
its character, its aspirations, and its American patriotism, as
any person now living; and this experience enables me to af-
firm that the prejudice against the German-American press
is groundless. On the contrary, that press does the country a
necessary and very important service. In the first place, it
fills a real and very urgent want. That want will exist so long
as there is a large number of German-born citizens in this
republic. There will always he many among them, especially
persons of mature years who arrived on American soil without
any knowledge of the English language, who may be able
to acquire enough of it to serve them in their daily walk, but
not enough to enable them to understand newspaper articles
on political or similar subjects. Such persons must receive the
necessary information about current events, questions to be
considered and duties to be performed, from journals pub-
lished in the language they understand, or they will not have
it at all. The suppression of the German-American press
would, therefore, be equivalent to the cultivation of political
ignorance among a large and highly estimable class of citizens.
It is argued that the existence of the German newspaper
is apt to render the German immigrant less sensible of the

necessity of learning English. This is the case only to a very limited extent. A large majority of the German immigrants of mature age, being farmers or industrial laborers, do not acquire their knowledge of English in this country through regular linguistic instruction, or by reading books or newspapers, but from conversation or attempts at conversation with their neighbors who do not speak German, and that knowledge will, of necessity, remain very imperfect. Their